

February 14, 2023

Dear Human Services and Aging Committees:

As a seasoned Long-Term Care Administrator and having worked in the industry for over 29 years, it is imperative that we collectively speak out and voice concerns of the minimum requirements set forth for LTC. The thought that a minimum 4.1 direct care staffing requirement would crimple an already broken and beaten down industry: makes those that embrace caring for the elderly want to leave the workplace. How can we expect to be able to satisfy the requirement when the workforce is still less than 50 % prior to the pandemic. Where would this staffing miraculously appear from?

Bride Brook Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, an Atlas Healthcare facility is located in Niantic on the shoreline. The facility has 130 beds and an average daily census of 116 ytd. There are 139 full- and part-time staff members. The Center is five star and has a longevity of staff that exceeds 15 years. We pride ourselves as "doing the right thing" and caring for all our Resident's with the upmost respect and dignity.

The Human Services and Aging Committee must know that a new staffing mandate will be a devastating expectation making the environment a less appealing workplace. LTHCW's are a unique and specialized talent and often are considered and treated differently. We are facing more regulatory requirements, financial cuts and simply a lesser regard for the LTC environment. The ability to care for the most vulnerable and yet cherished population becomes harder and harder with all these nuances and outrageous expectations. The ideology that LTHCC are institutionalized living is a notion of the past. Communities such as ours are homelike and Resident's thrive with companionship and the needed help they deserve. Why would we place the burden of an unrealistic staffing requirement when the environment is already at its maximum threshold?

Please consider this a plea for stability and incentive rather than another burden of unrealistic expectations.



Lisa Mailloux, LNHA
Administrator